



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: August 16, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 83,056.75
- Expense Warrant: \$ 85,570.18
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For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Standard and Poor's and reaffirmed our AA bond rating as a result of our meeting with them last week and their internal process. We had expected this result seeing no reason for a downgrade, and no concrete reasons why the rating should be improved.
- We are pleased to let you know that the Town will be receiving back \$4,893 in premium credit from MIIA for participating in their annual rewards program. The Town has the opportunity to accumulate rewards by participating in training opportunities and proactive participation in loss control and risk management programs. What is even better about the program is the training is free and by participating in all of these programs the outcome is likely to be lower risk and thus management of our insurance costs for the future.
- It is the time of year when the annual formula grant for the Council on Aging is due. Holly Whalen and I are working together to submit this application on the Town's behalf. We anticipate that it will cover costs for distribution of the monthly newsletter, some expenses for the bus, a new computer for the Department Assistant who produces the newsletter, and the expense of attending the annual COA conference.
- The postcards announcing the opening of the 3rd well field have been mailed out, and a copy is on our website. As you know this is planned for Tuesday, September 10th at 5 PM on site (169 West River Street).
- The Library Trustees have sent out a meeting request asking that the Board and several others (Board of Health, Finance Committee) join them on August 26th to talk about the report of the firm they brought in to do environmental testing in the building. The Trustees would like to work together to determine the next steps on how to address the report's findings.
- Work continues on the Town Hall project. The contractor is continuing with demolition of interior spaces. They are in the process of determining how much of the ledge in the basement will need to be removed, and of that is there more than the 20 cubic yards that were already anticipated and included in the cost. We are bringing in a geotechnical engineer to advise the contractor on the most appropriate way to remove the ledge that protects the building envelope. While performing some of the basement excavation the

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crews found an old well in what was the Veteran's Agent office. The well was about 10 feet deep and 6 feet wide and had been obviously covered over. The well will be filled in as part of the construction process. The process to begin restoration of the windows has also started. You may notice that the mullions have been removed from the windows, and the contractor will be sending the windows out for restoration in batches so they can then be reinstalled. The project sign is also up, affixed to the fence out front.

- The DPW Director and I attended a meeting on Monday the 12th with the area planning agencies and the casino consultants to discuss water, sewer and other infrastructure concerns. We, along with a number of other communities, questioned the assumptions made about traffic impacts that were shared with the group. For example, the casino suggested that Route 140 would see no additional impact of car traffic with the facility, and Hopkinton Road would have a 1.38% increase. I believe that CMRPC and MAPC are asking good questions about this data and will be helpful to us in ascertaining whether or not there are aspects of the project that ought to be considered for mitigation if it goes forward.
- For those of you who travel Hopkinton Road to get to Route 495 please be aware that on Monday construction starts on the project to install traffic lights at the School Street intersection. The Town Manager tells me that the project is slated to continue until November.